



PRESIDENTS' HOUSE

Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Final Concept Design, March 2003

TEAM

National Park Service team

- Joseph Becton, Supervisory Park Ranger, Interpretation, INDE
- Doris Fanelli, Chief, Cultural Resources Management, INDE
- David Hollenberg, Associate Regional Director for National Heritage Partnerships, NER
- Dwight Pitcaithley, Chief Historian, NPS
- Dennis Reidenbach, Acting Superintendent, INDE
- Mary Reinhart, Interpretive Specialist, INDE
- Chris Schillizzi, Chief, Interpretation and Visitor Services, INDE
- Russ Smith, Team Manager, Park Operations and Education, PSO
- Coxey Toogood, Historian, INDE

Olin Partnership team

- Laurie Olin, Principal
- Elaine Rosenberg, Associate
- Jean Weston, Landscape Architect
- Bryan Hanes, Senior Landscape Architect

Vincent Ciulla Design team

- Vincent Ciulla, President
- Nicolas Guillin, Senior Designer
- Jennifer Morgan, Project Manager
- Clement Price, Historian

Community Participants

- Joel Avery, Multicultural Affairs Congress, Pennsylvania Convention and Visitor Bureau
- Tanya Hall, Multicultural Affairs Congress, Pennsylvania Convention and Visitor Bureau
- Karen Warrington, Director of Communication for Congressman Robert A. Brady
- Stevie Wolf, Historian
- Michael Coard, Avenging the Ancestors Coalition
- Ed Lawler, Independence Hall Association
- Harry Harrison, President of The African American Museum in Philadelphia

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The following Conceptual Design seeks to engage visitors to Independence National Historical Park in learning about the first two presidents of the United States of America, George Washington and John Adams, as they lived and worked in the Presidents' House on this site in Philadelphia, the capital of the new nation from 1790 until 1800.

The Conceptual Design seeks, as well, to appropriately commemorate the profound story of the eight enslaved Africans who lived and worked there during the time of Washington's presidency.

The Conceptual Design will also illuminate the story of slavery in the formation of our country, the story of free African-Americans in Philadelphia, and the escape to freedom that so many enslaved Africans dared to make.

This document is structured as follows:

SECTION 1: LISTENING AND GATHERING

Its first section, pages 5 to 7, describes the extensive involvement of the Philadelphia community and the creative process that they participated in with the National Park Service to develop this Conceptual Design.

SECTION 2: CONCEPT DESIGN

The second section, pages 9 to 18, describes the Conceptual Design itself, and the stories visitors will learn at the site.

SECTION 3: MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

The third section, pages 20 to 23, gives examples of the types of materials and production methods this important project could employ in its realization. The document is concluded with a preliminary concept design level cost estimate.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1997 the National Park Service and the Philadelphia community developed a Master Plan for the redesign of the three blocks of Independence Mall at Independence National Historical Park incorporating several new buildings: the Liberty Bell Center, the Independence Visitor Center, the Independence Park Institute, and the National Constitution Center. Since then, even as the buildings and the landscape were being designed and constructed, new information came to light regarding the location of the mansion in which Presidents Washington and Adams lived and worked during their terms of office. The site of this building, which was long ago demolished, is historically significant because it was the home of the Executive Branch of the U.S. government when Philadelphia was the new nation's capital city. And it is equally important because, at the very time that the founders of our country were declaring that "all men are created equal," George Washington kept eight Africans enslaved at this house.

These two important issues, and the considerable interest of Philadelphians in telling the whole story of the site, prompted the National Park Service to engage a design team (Olin Partnership of Philadelphia and Ciulla Design Associates of New York) to look at ways to heighten the presentation of this history in the existing Mall Master Plan. The subsequent planning included defining which aspects of the complicated history should be told, developing

interpretive themes to communicate those stories and determining how to physically present those themes, and integrate those physical manifestations into the site. The resulting "Presidents' House, Independence National Historical Park, Final Concept Plan, March, 2003" follows this explanation of the planning process.

In order to broaden their understanding of the issues relating to the history of the Presidents' House and its free and enslaved residents, the design team and members of the National Park Service met with historians and concerned members of the community for an intense dialog. Many issues were brought to the table, and were subsequently sorted into five primary interpretive themes. Each of these larger themes represents many issues and stories, some of which are listed, which will be considered in the development of the final interpretive text. Following the development of the themes, a diagram was developed to describe the interrelationship between the themes.

The next stage in the conceptual design project was to find places and physical forms for interpreting these themes within the existing Master Plan of Independence Mall. A key goal of the design team was to incorporate these new features seamlessly into the site. The team began by overlaying the footprint of the Presidents' House onto the park Master Plan.

The original location of the Presidents' House is due north of the new Liberty Bell Center, which overlaps some of the mansion's southern outbuildings (stable, wash house, etc.). It was decided to use the entire 12,000 square foot area north of the equally large Liberty Bell Center to interpret the five themes.

The design team proposed outlining the main part of the house as well as the kitchen and servants' hall with a change in paving material, using seat walls and higher walls in selected areas. A dramatic serpentine wall, which is an integral part of the design of the Liberty Bell Center, would continue northeast and become a part of the interpretive design of the Presidents' House site as well. Brick piers and trellises which are used on all three blocks of the Mall would also be incorporated into the new site design. By utilizing these elements of the existing plan, the new interpretive site can be integrated into the existing Mall design.

The five themes which had been developed by the community participants and the Park Service team were assigned to specific locations reinforcing their thematic relationships. The first two themes ("the house and the people who lived and worked there" and "the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government") will be within the footprint of the main house. The eight enslaved Africans who lived in the house during President Washington's term will be appropriately commemorated on a pier at the

entrance to the site. The third theme ("the system and methods of slavery") is a powerful and disturbing story which will be interpreted on the east side of the dramatic serpentine wall. Artistic elements (either sculpture, silhouettes, friezes or relief sculptures) within openings in the wall, visible from inside or outside the park, will commemorate the contributions of enslaved Africans. The related stories of "free African-Americans in Philadelphia" and "the move to freedom" will be symbolically placed beyond the wall with interpretation on both the serpentine wall and on piers.

As a conceptual design, this current proposal is not intended to include the final interpretive content or to show the final form of the design elements, materials, or artwork. The design team has incorporated text and sculptural elements into the drawings as placeholders only, and materials and images are shown to indicate a range of options.

The proposed themes and conceptual site design have been presented to the original group of representatives of interested parties during the mid-design phase to solicit input and again at the end of the process. Following the endorsement of these groups, the concept was presented to the press and to the general public in an open forum.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

This narrative, written from the visitors' point of view, describes what they will see, do, think, feel, and learn while at the site.

"As we walk to the Northwest corner of Block One of Independence Mall at the intersection of Market and Sixth Streets on our way to the Liberty Bell Center we come upon something dynamic and unexpectedly striking.

Right before us incorporated in a sixteen foot high curved stone wall that extends out into the sidewalk on Market Street, we encounter a series of sculptural artwork of people working at various tasks.

The people in the sculptures appear to be African-American. We are intrigued, and stop to read a nearby plaque that tells us these sculptures honor the contributions of the enslaved Africans who toiled right here during the time the first American President lived here, and that, at the outdoor exhibition inside the wall, we will learn their stories.

As we turn and walk east on Market Street towards the entrance to Independence Mall, we encounter another unexpected element. To our right and also sixteen feet tall, we see a monumental glass wall displaying etched images depicting people in their homes.

We learn, from another nearby plaque, that this wall marks the exact spot of the front of the home and office of our country's first two presidents, George Washington and John Adams, and that the glass etchings are depictions of them, their families, and their servants.

At first, we see no connection between the nearby sculptural elements and these images in the glass, but as we read on we learn that not only did President Washington live here but so did eight of his enslaved Africans.

We are now anxious to learn more about this story and decide that we must stop to see the outdoor exhibition before we see the Liberty Bell.

Once on the Mall, as we walk toward the cluster of exhibits and buildings we learn that by turning left we can go into the Liberty Bell Center and, by turning right, we can visit the site of the Presidents' House to learn more about Washington and Adams and the enslaved Africans.

As we approach, we are astonished to learn that at the very entrance to the new Liberty Bell Center there once stood a building that housed some of Washington's servants - including slaves!

We now see darker stone pavement marking the footprint of the kitchen and servants' hall and

a memorial on a massive pillar commemorating the eight slaves who lived here.

We are moved by this, and after a quiet pause, we continue to learn more.

As we walk toward the glass wall we saw earlier, we learn we are walking through the very footprint of the Presidents' House, also depicted in dark stone in the pavement and outlined on one side with a low seat wall.

We pass the seal of the President of the United States carved in the pavement. It marks the very spot upon which Presidents Washington and Adams stood as they conducted the business of government and greeted guests to the executive mansion of our new country.

As we near the glass wall we saw from Market Street, nearby panels tell us about Washington's and Adams' time as presidents and details of their lives in this place.

Beyond we are drawn to the large sculptural artwork of the enslaved Africans we saw from the corner of Market and Sixth Streets.

We see now that the long serpentine wall in which they are embedded extends the length of the Presidents' House exhibition and right on into the Liberty Bell Center with its many exhibits.

On its near surface we learn about the history of slavery in our land, and how it denied freedom to generations of Africans, while their forced and skilled labor played an essential role in the development of our new country. We are moved again, saddened by what we have learned.

As we progress along this wall, we see that we can pass through it to a section where we learn the story of African-American Philadelphia, a dynamic place where slaves and free African-Americans mingled.

We learn that these interactions emboldened countless enslaved people - America's first refugees - to escape to freedom, and that two of Washington's own slaves, Oney Judge and Hercules, escaped in this very way from his household.

As we move now towards the entrance to the Liberty Bell Center we have gained a new, profound, and in some ways disquieting perspective on our notions of liberty and freedom, and the profound paradoxes upon which the United States of America was founded.

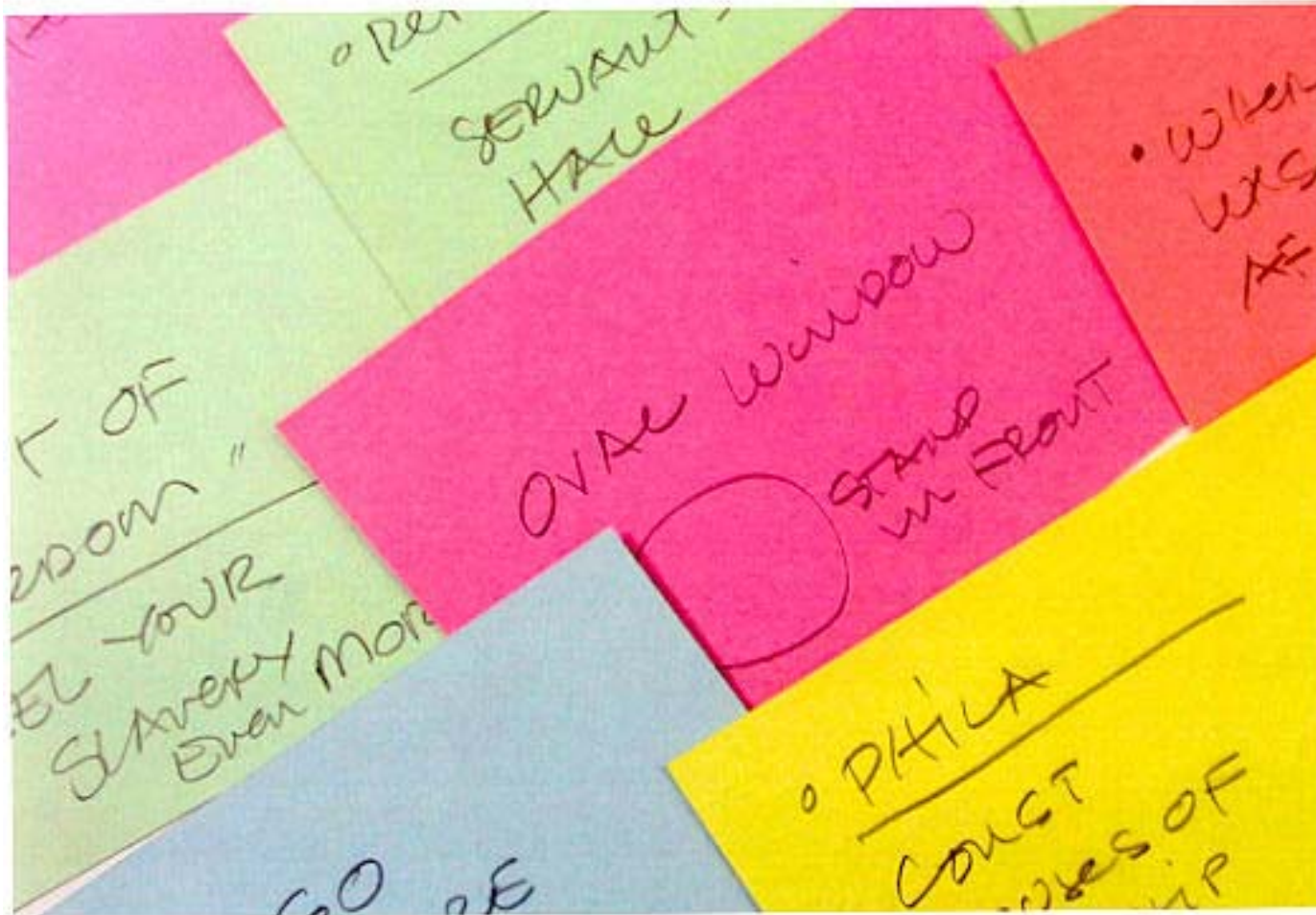
And as we enter the Liberty Bell Center we consider how far we have all come and how far we yet have to go."

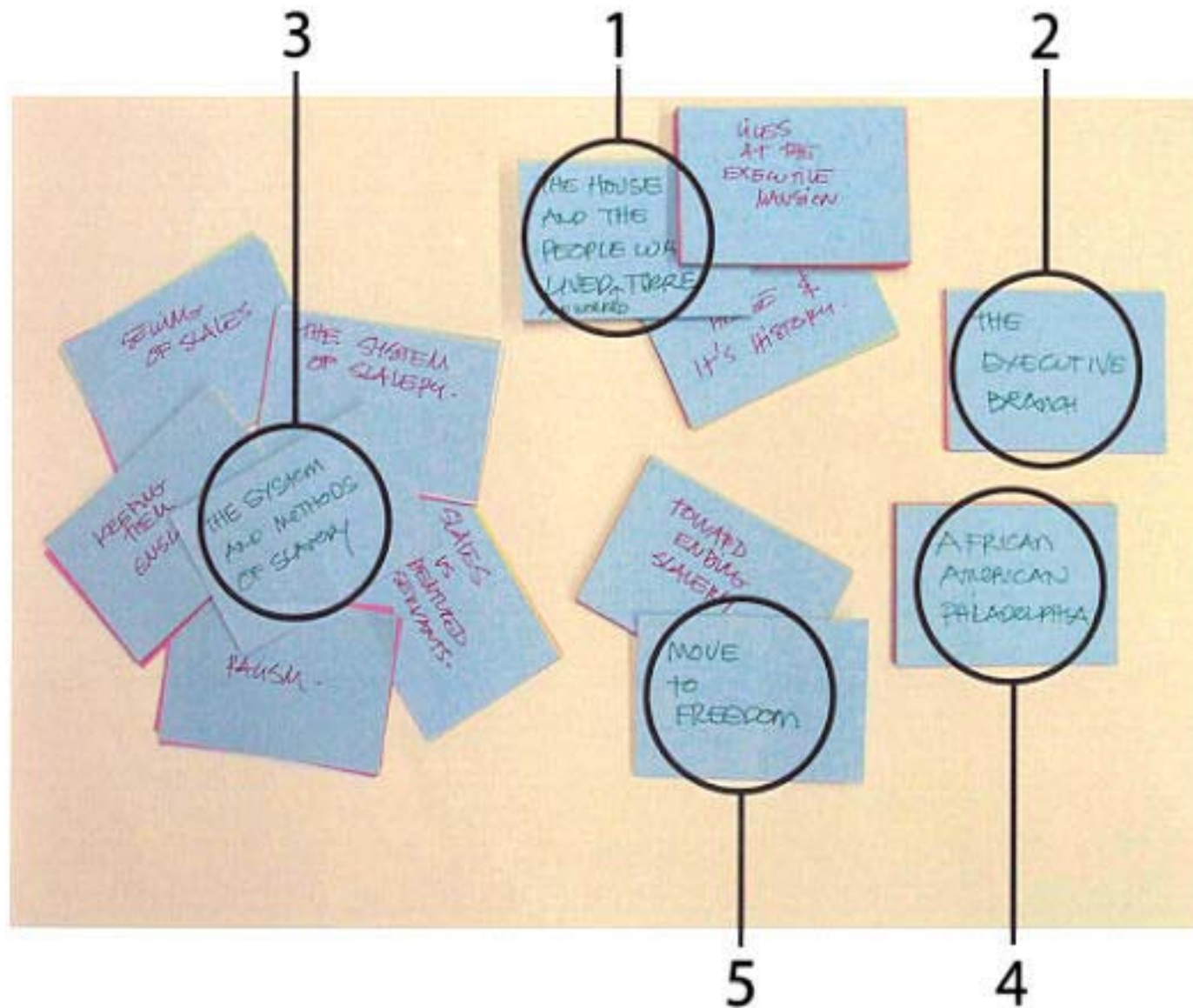
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CARD SORT

After the planning team collected the stories during the first day of the workshop, the index cards were organized into major themes by the National Park Service team as shown on page 1.





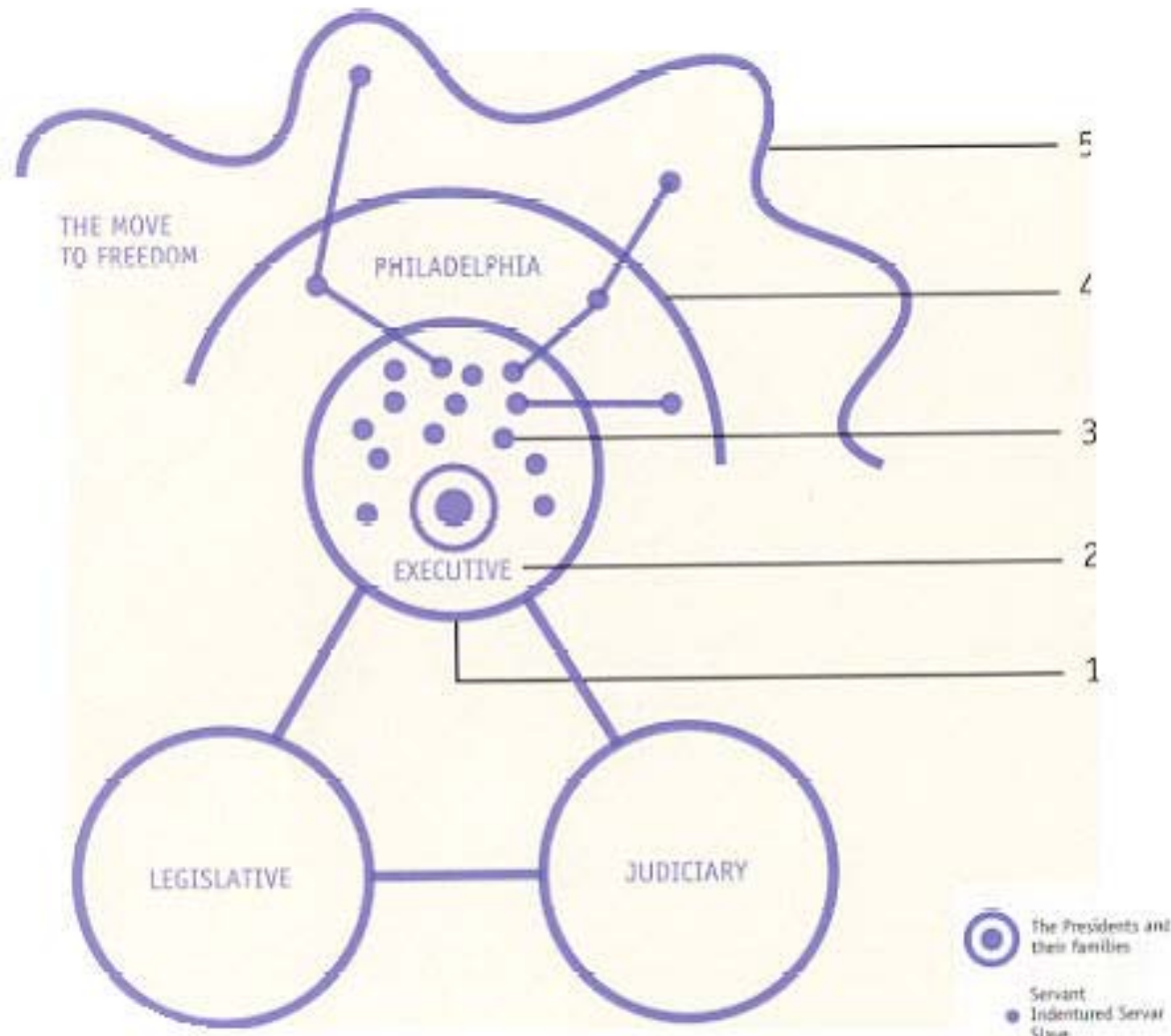
THEMES

- 1 The house and the people who lived and worked there**
 - The physical house
 - Lives at the Presidents' House with the Washington family
 - Lives at the Presidents' House with the Adams family
- 2 The Executive Branch of the U.S. Government**
 - Relations with American Indians
 - 1793 Fugitive Slave Act
 - Undeclared war with France
 - Alien and Sedition Act
- 3 The system and methods of slavery**
 - Racism
 - Slaves vs. indentured servants
 - Economic, social and political system
 - Selling of slaves
 - Preventing slaves from escaping
 - How slaves survived
- 4 African-American Philadelphia**
 - The community of free African-Americans
 - Interaction between free and enslaved African-Americans
 - Links to other resources
- 5 The move to freedom**
 - Escape
 - Abolitionist movement

THEMES DIAGRAM

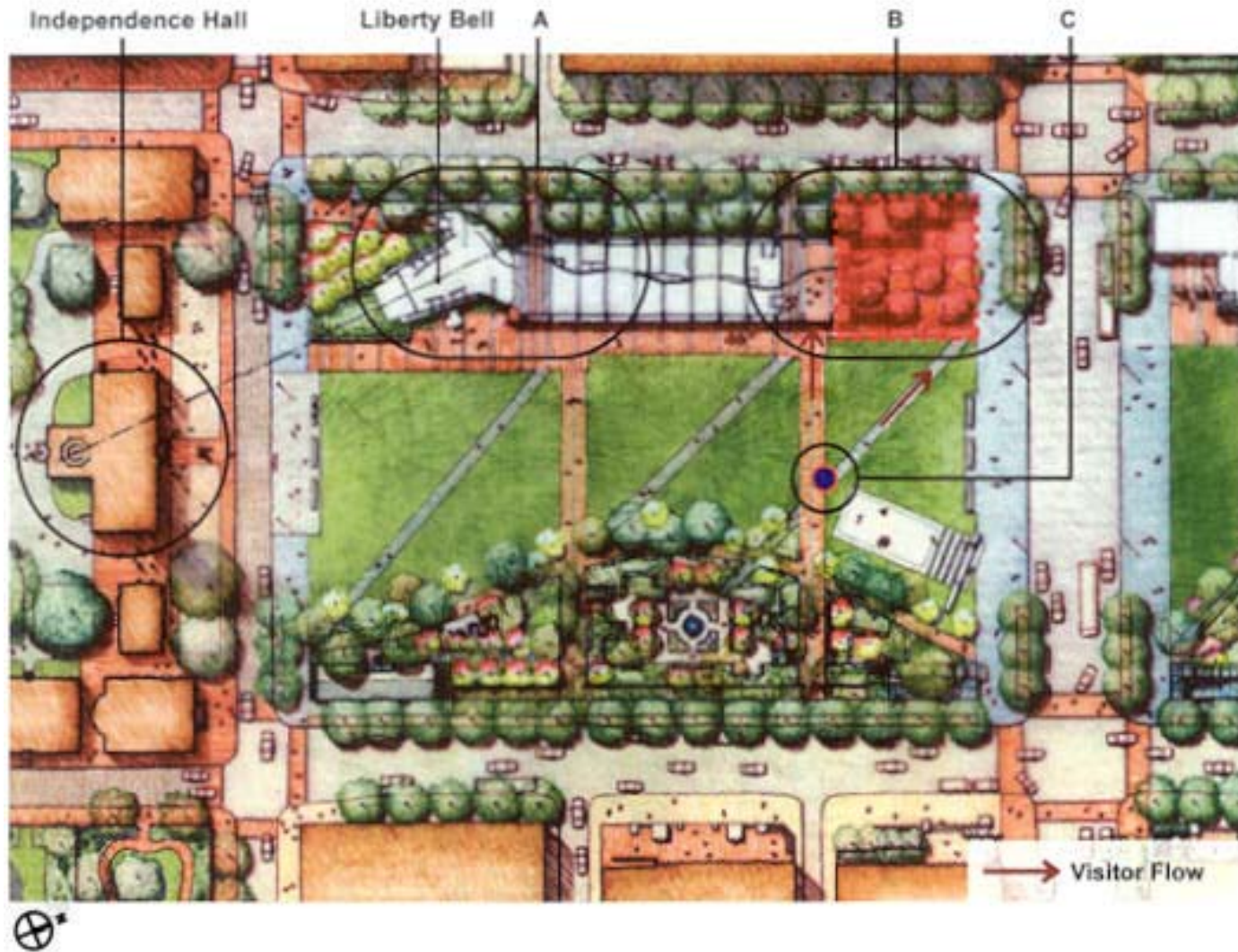
- 1 The house and the people who lived and worked there
- 2 The Executive Branch of the U.S. Government
- 3 The system and methods of slavery
- 4 African-American Philadelphia
- 5 The move to freedom

The main themes were identified. The next step in the planning process was to organize content in a conceptual diagram as shown on the left. The purpose of this exercise was to explore relationships among themes. It provided the foundation for the work to come and provided guidance for how the stories will be interpreted at the Presidents' House site.



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OVERALL SITE PLAN



A Liberty Bell Center
(12,000 square feet)

B Presidents' House Site
(12,000 square feet)

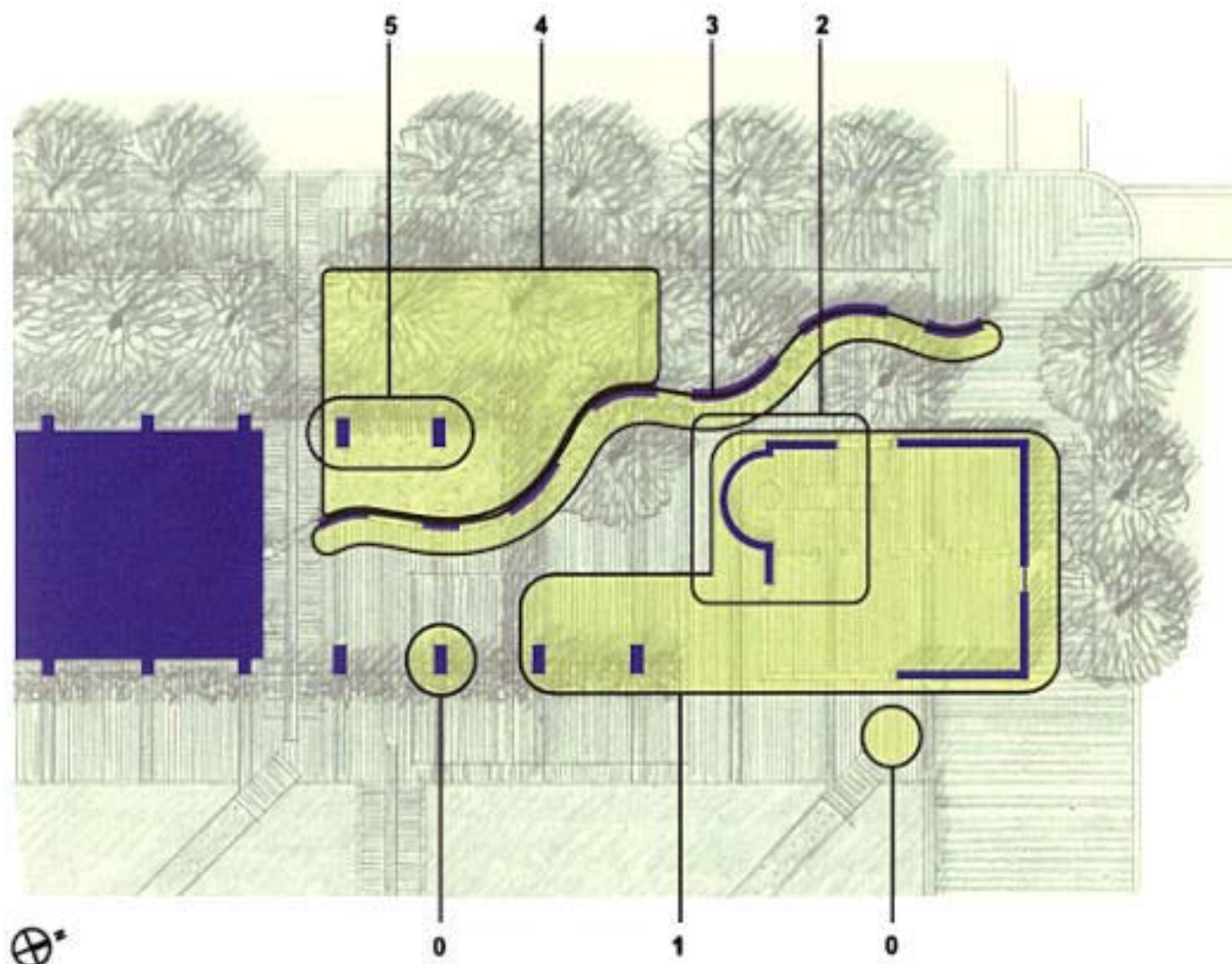
C Directional signage to the Liberty Bell Center and Presidents' House Site

This overall site plan identifies major components of the visitor experience at Independence National Historical Park. It is important that the interpretation for the Presidents' House is integrated conceptually with the Liberty Bell Center and provides visitors with complementary experiences.

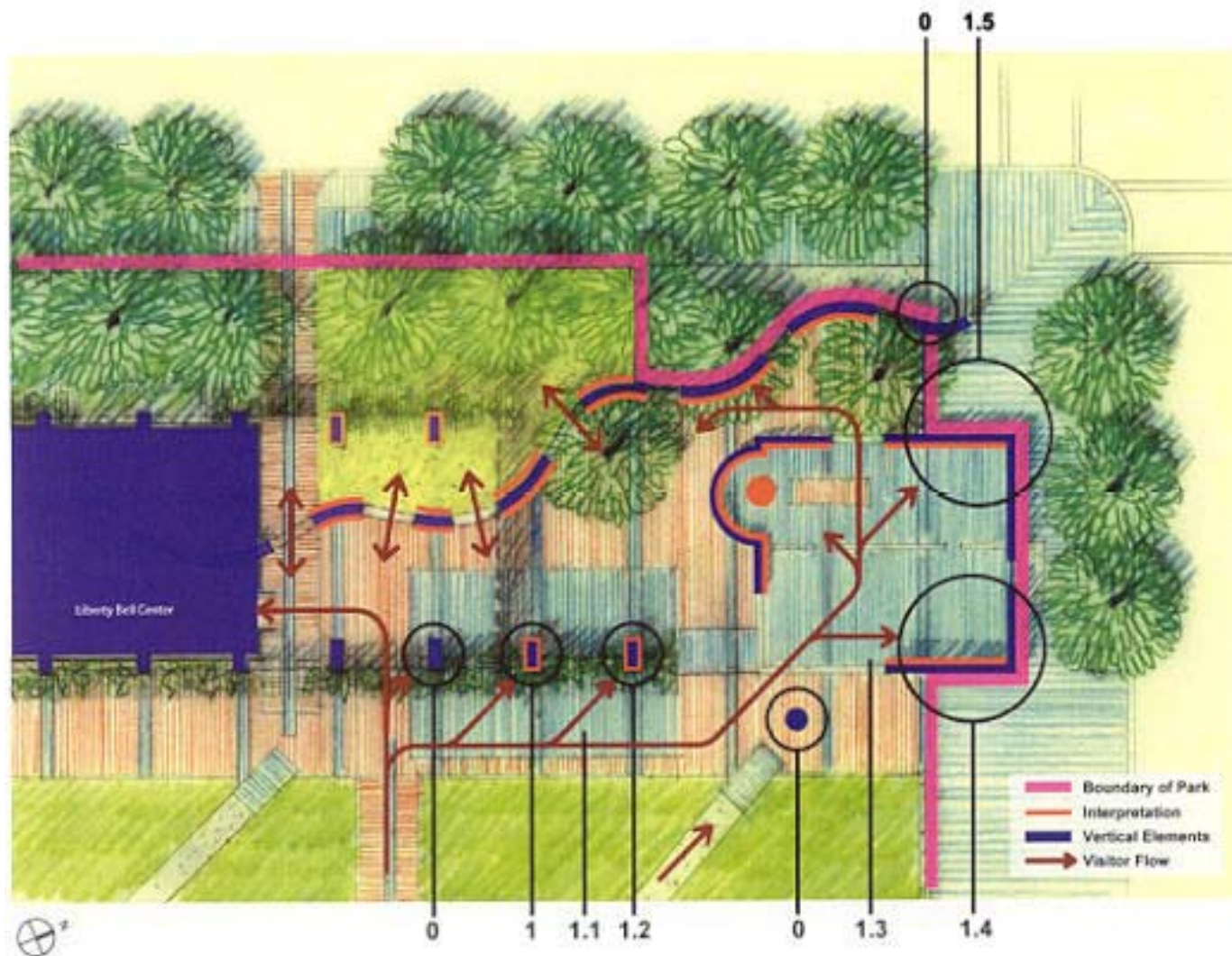
THEMES ON THE SIT

- 0 Introduction to Site (Two Locations)
- 1 The house and the people who lived and worked there
- 2 The Executive Branch of the U.S. Government
- 3 The system and methods of slavery
- 4 African-American Philadelphia
- 5 The move to freedom

The plan on the left is the translation of the concept diagram shown on page 4. A physical location is assigned for each theme. The exhibit elements defining the house site cover the original footprint where the mansion once stood. The "system and methods of slavery" theme is articulated on a 16' tall curved stone wall extending from the Liberty Bell Center building. It provides a physical link between these two exhibitions. The west side of this curved wall is dedicated to African-American Philadelphia.



DETAILED SITE PLAN



0 Introduction to site (Two locations)

1 The house and the people who lived and worked there

Interpretive panel with floor plans will depict the house as it is thought to have existed in the 1790s.

1.1 Footprint of servants' and slaves' dining hall and kitchen. Area will be delineated by stone paving.

1.2 Artwork will commemorate the lives of the eight slaves who lived in the Presidents' House during the 1790s.

1.3 The Presidents' House will be defined by walls, seatwalls and paving elements. Main interior partitions visible on ground, defining the rooms in the mansion.

1.4 The east wall tells stories of Adams' presidency and life at the mansion.

1.5 The west wall tells stories of Washington's presidency and life at the mansion.

DETAILED SITE PLAN 2

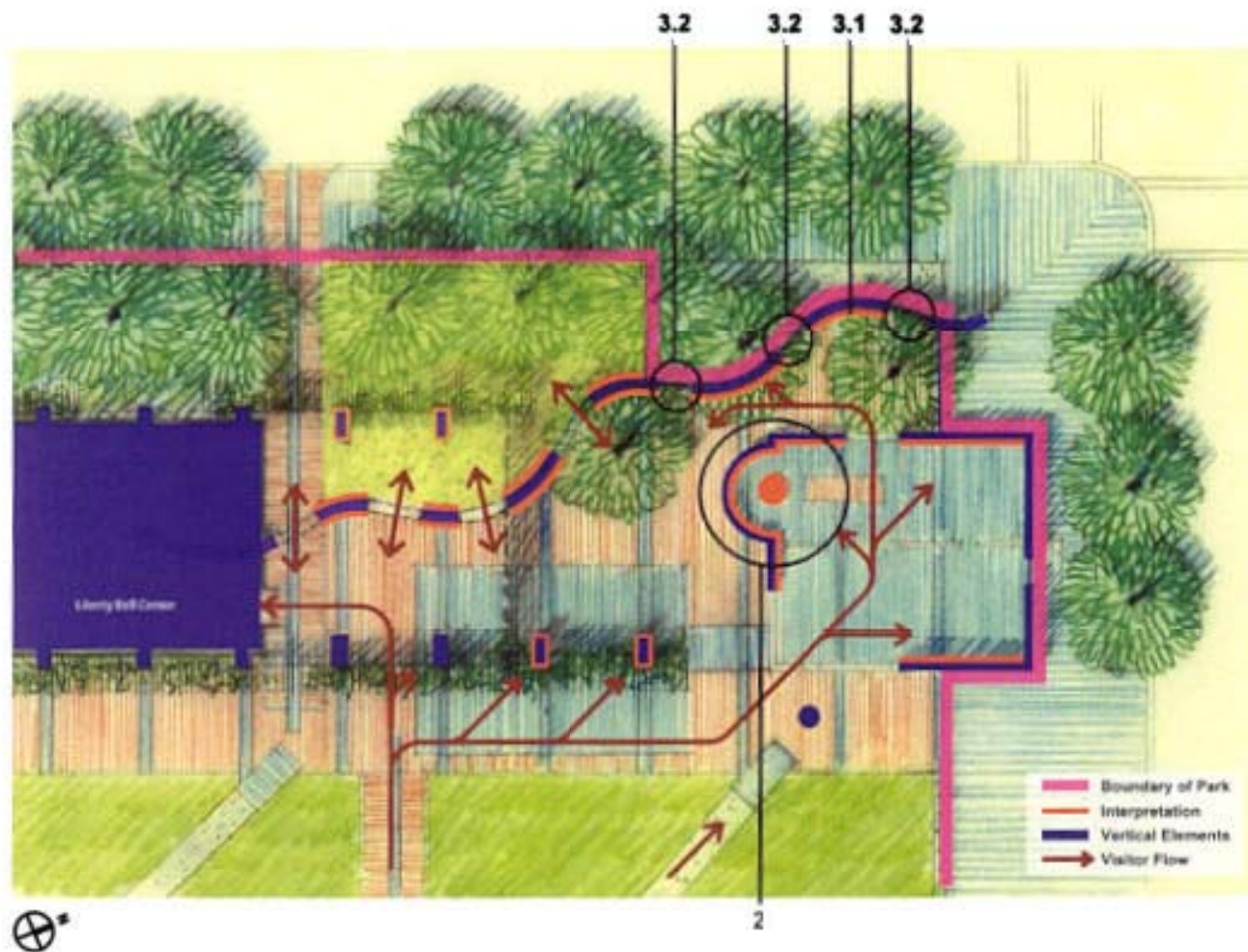
2 The Executive Branch of the U.S. Government.

Interpretation at the curved seatwall will identify the mansion as the site of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government when Philadelphia was the Capital City.

3 The system and methods of slavery.

3.1 East side of the curved wall will tell the stories of slavery and emancipation. Content will be organized in chronological order from north to south on wall. A concise version of these stories will be available on the west side of the wall for visitors outside the park.

3.2 Openings within the curved wall will incorporate artwork depicting the condition and institution of slavery in Philadelphia.



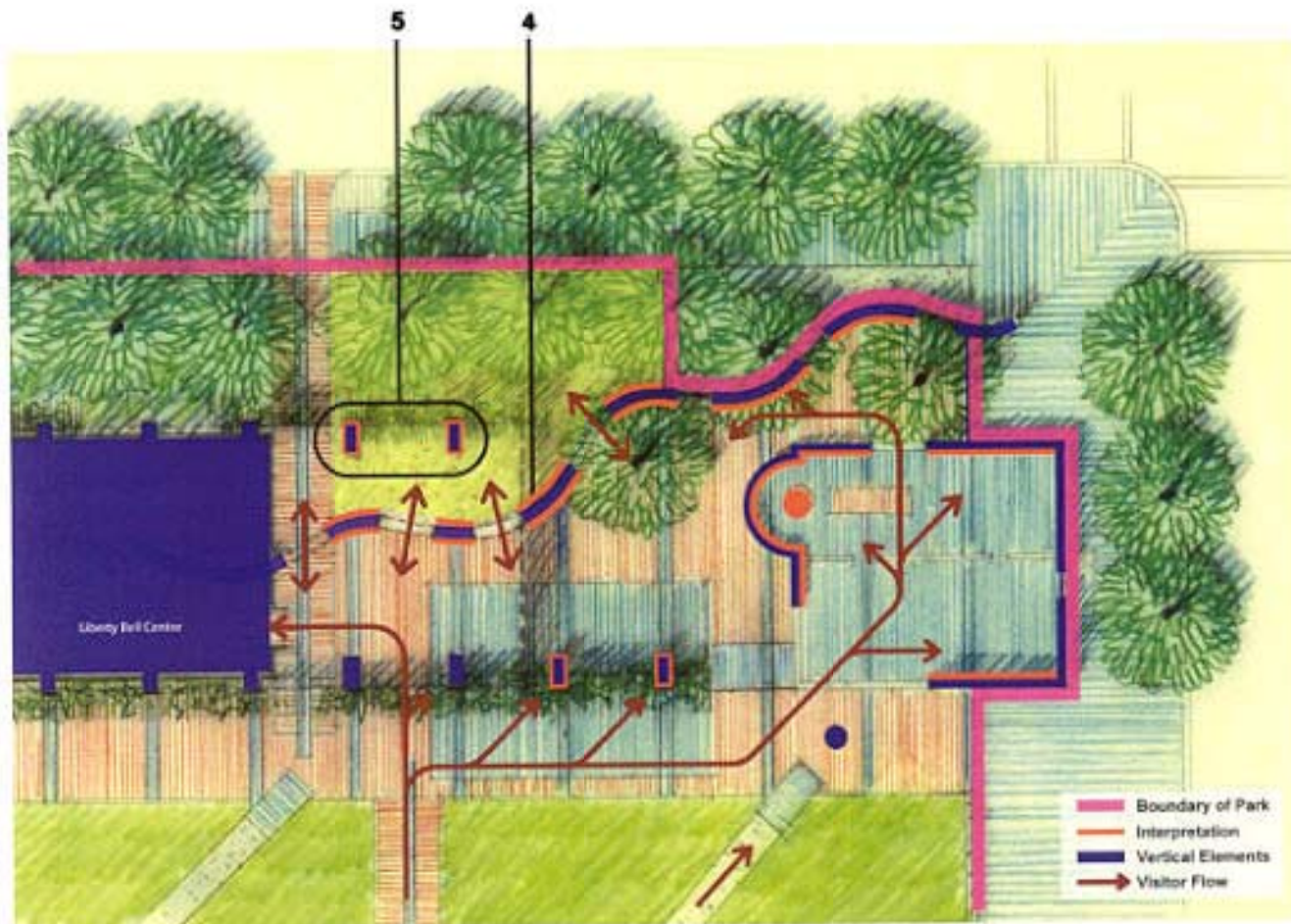
DETAILED SITE PLAN 3

4 African-American Philadelphia

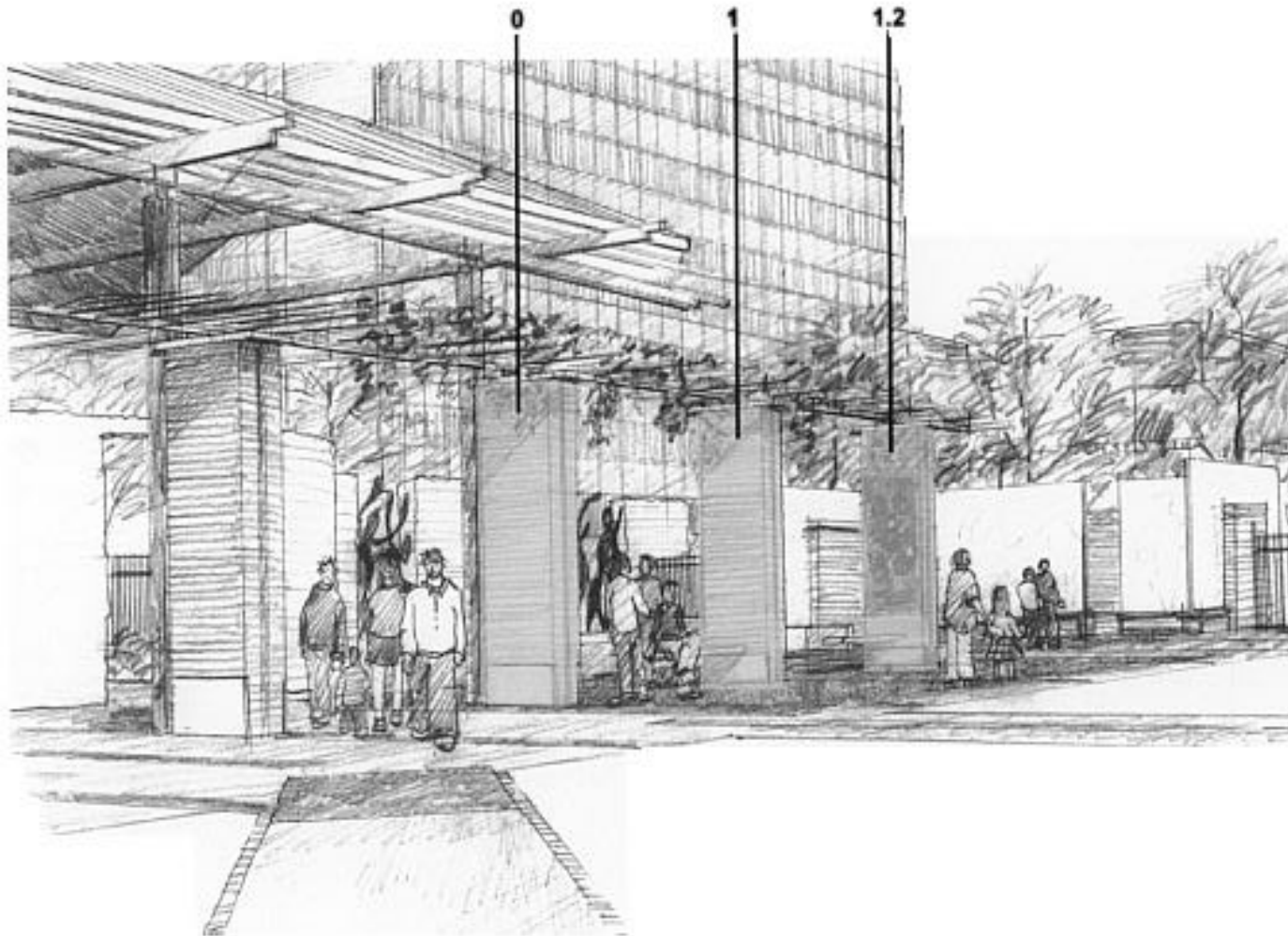
The area west of the curved wall will represent the free African-American community living in Philadelphia, a place where slaves were exposed to other ways of life. Free and enslaved Africans were able to mingle at the market, in Washington Square, and at Church. The curved wall will also tell the stories of prominent African-Americans living in Philadelphia in the 1790s.

5 The Move to Freedom

The two piers west of the curved wall will tell the escape stories of Oney Judge and Hercules, slaves of President Washington at the mansion in the 1790s.



PERSPECTIVE FROM PEDESTRIAN PATH

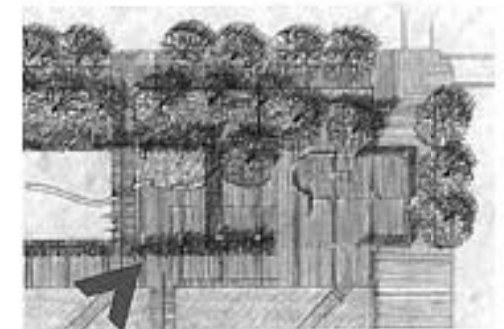


0 Pier will be used as support for introductory interpretive material as well as wayfinding information.

1 Interpretive panel with floor plans will depict the house as it is thought to have existed in the 1790s.

1.2 Artwork incorporated into the pier will commemorate the lives of the eight slaves who lived here during the 1790s.

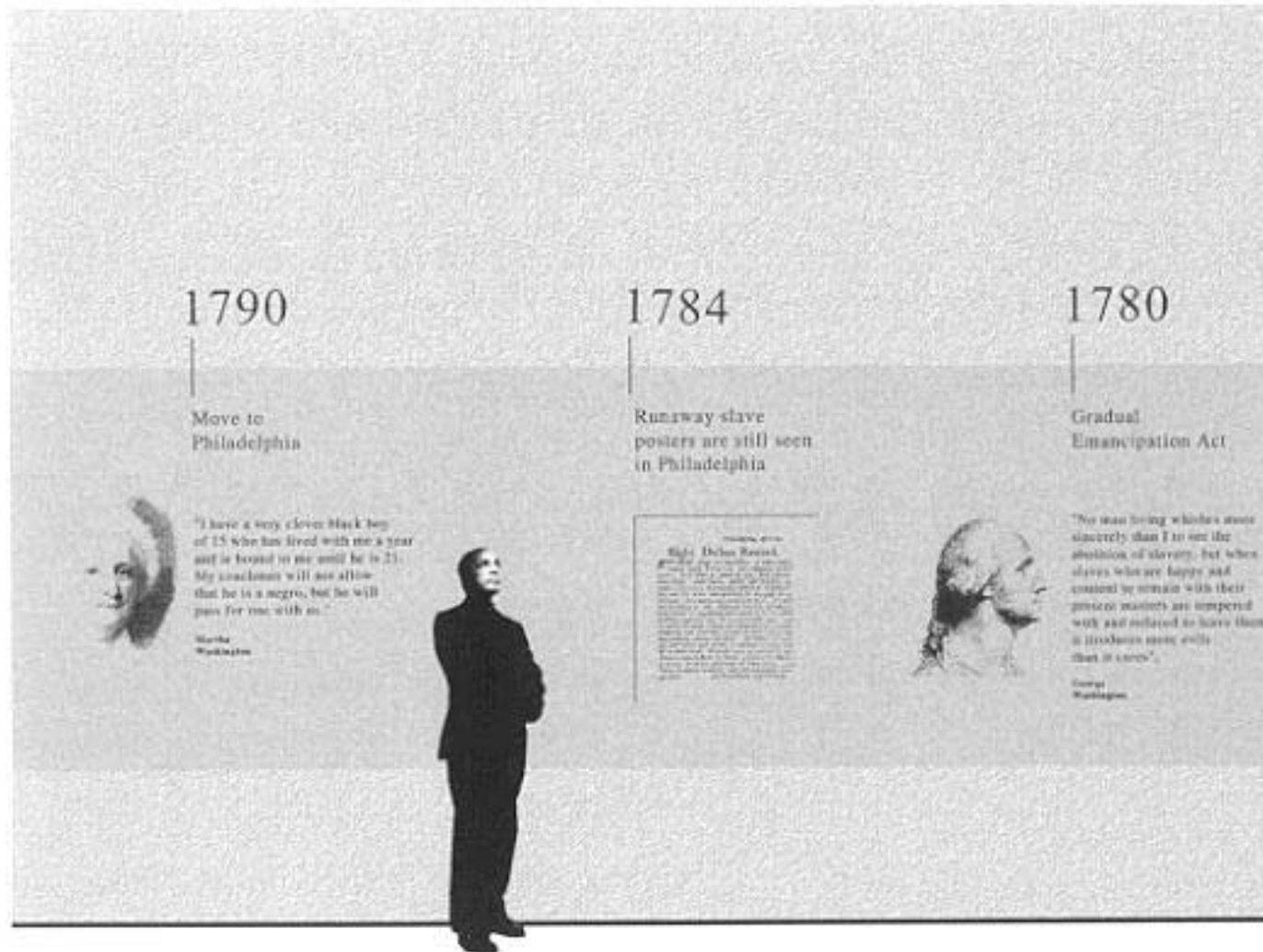
KEY PLAN



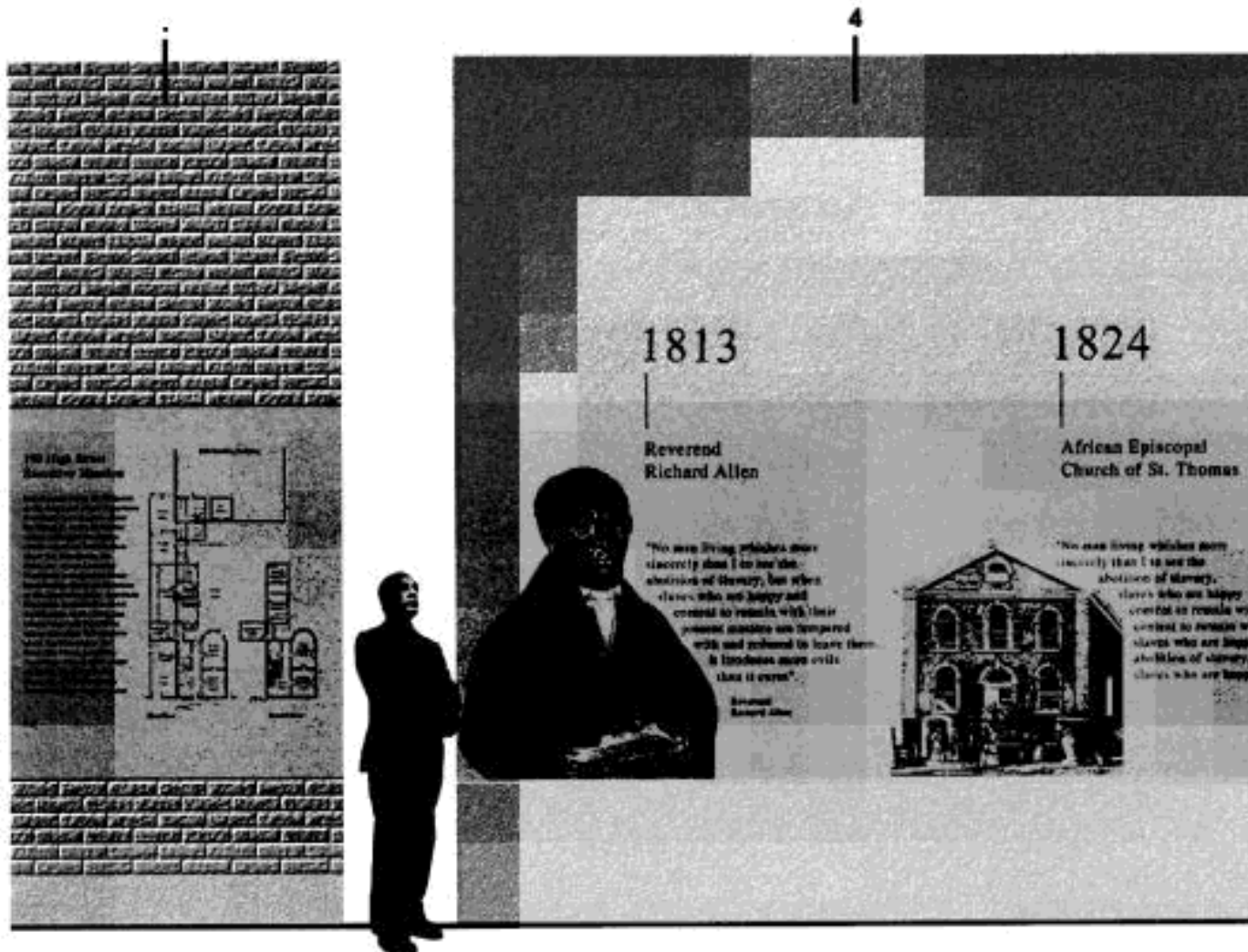
GRAPHIC INTERPRETATION

East side curved wall elevation

Interpretive graphics will be incorporated into the curved wall, proceeding chronologically from north to south. Content of interpretive text to be determined.



GRAPHIC INTERPRETATION



1 The house's physical history
graphic elevation

An interpretive panel with floor plans of the Presidents' House as it is thought to have existed in the 1790s located in relation to the Liberty Bell Center.

4 West side curved wall graphic elevation

Interpretive graphics will be incorporated into the curved wall, proceeding chronologically from north to south. Content of interpretive text to be determined.

PERSPECTIVE FROM SIXTH AND MARKET STREETS

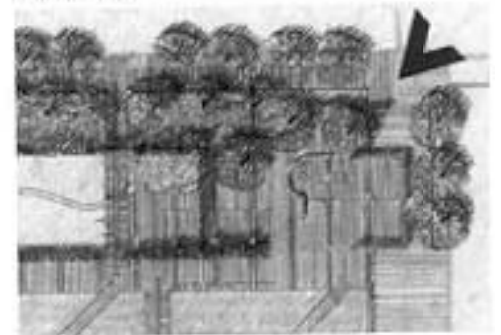


0 West side of the curved wall will include introductory interpretive material as well as wayfinding information.

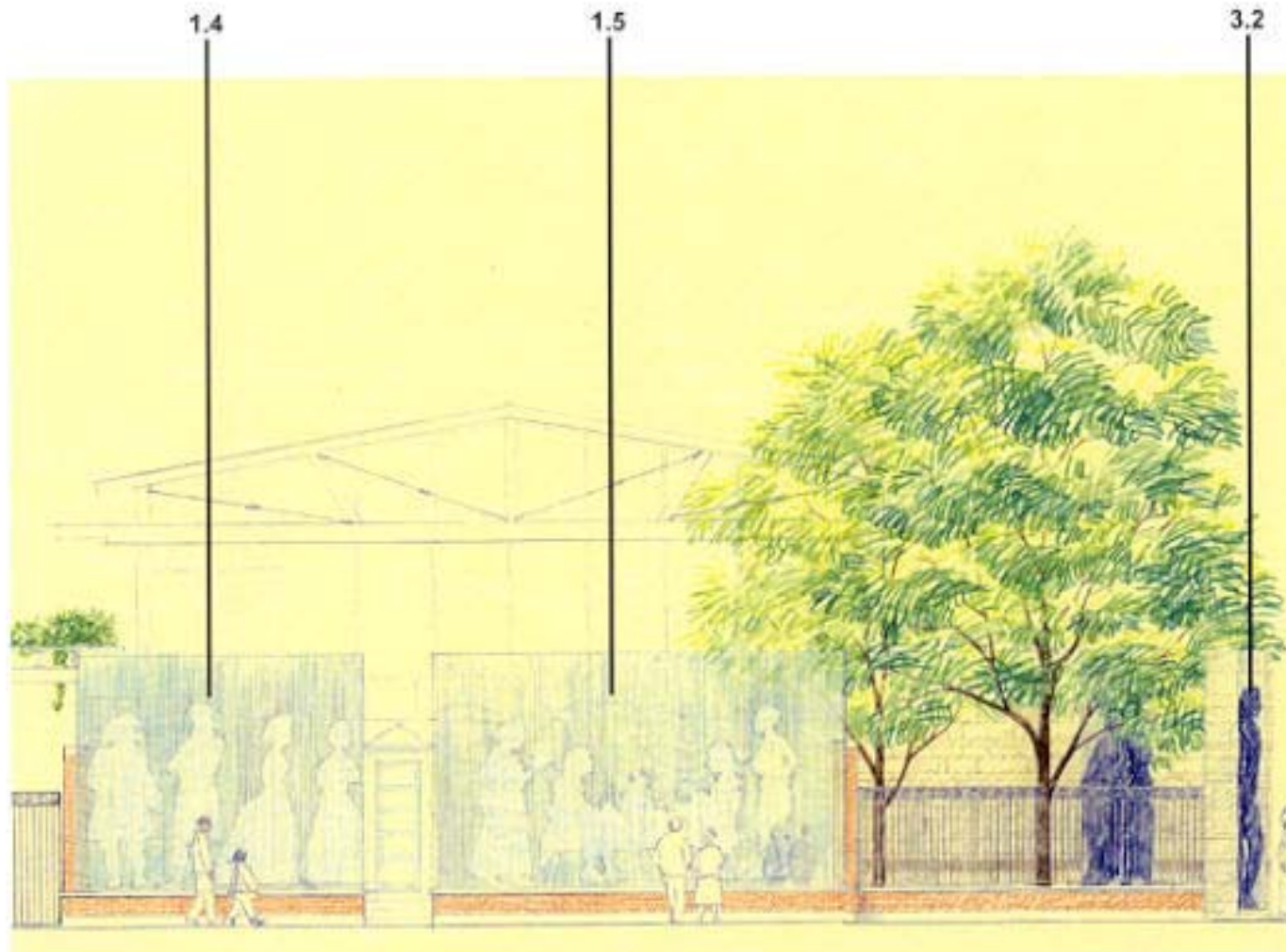
1.5 Walls outlining the Presidents' House.

3.2 Openings within the curved wall will incorporate artwork depicting the condition and institution of slavery in Philadelphia.

KEY PLAN

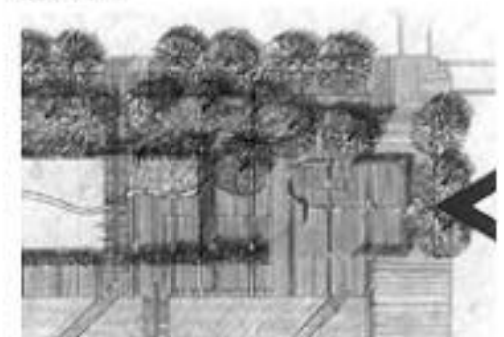


ELEVATION FROM MARKET STREET



- 1.4 The east wall will tell the stories of Adams presidency and life at the mansion.
- 1.5 The west wall will tell the stories of Washington's presidency and life at the mansion.
- 3.2 Openings within the curved wall will incorporate artwork depicting the condition and institution of slavery in Philadelphia.

KEY PLAN



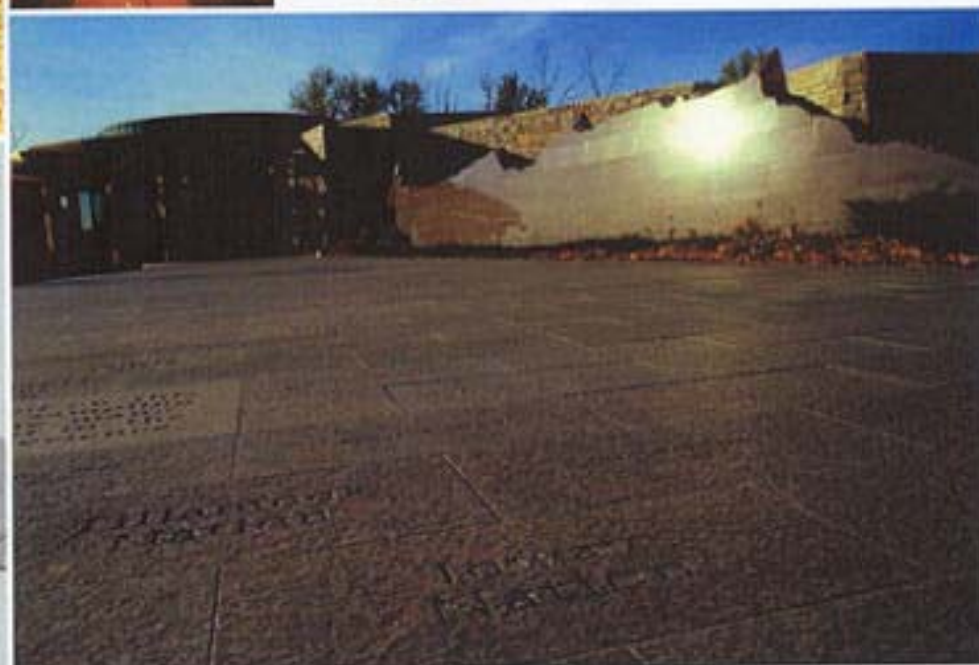
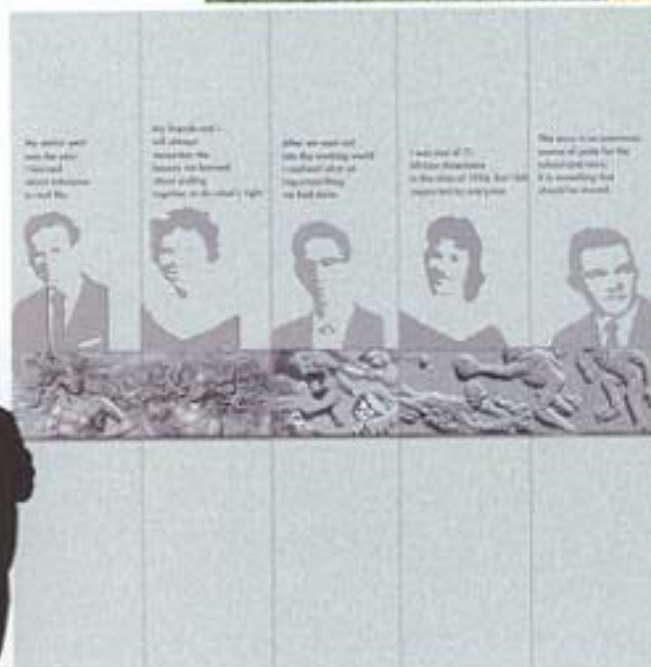
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PRELIMINARY CONCEPT DESIGN COST ESTIMATE

Since Olin Partnership, Ltd. has no control over the cost of labor, materials, or equipment or over the contractor's method of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, this Statement of Probable Cost is made on the basis of professional experience and qualifications. This estimate represents Olin Partnership, Ltd.'s best judgement as a professional design consultant familiar with the construction industry. However, Olin Partnership does not guarantee that proposals, bids, or the construction cost will not vary from statements of probable cost prepared by them.

SITE COST SUMMARY

01500/Temporary Facilities and Controls		\$1,000
02200/Site Preparation		\$1,000
02220/Site Demolition		\$583
02300/Earthwork		\$9,712
02510/Water Distribution		\$20,000
02630/Storm Drainage		\$25,000
02780/Exterior Unit Pavers		\$335,000
02800/Site Improvements		\$18,230
02920/Soil Preparation		\$15,000
02950/Planting		\$15,450
03300/C.I.P. Concrete		\$12,400
04200/Masonry		\$630,184
05700 Ornamental Metalwork		\$25,200
08000 Glass		\$525,200
Special Construction (Artwork)		\$1,561,000
16000/Electrical		\$15,000
SITE COST SUBTOTAL		\$3,209,959
Contractor General Conditions@	10.0%	\$320,996
Contractor OH&P @	5.0%	\$160,498
Bonds/Insurance	1.0%	\$32,100
Subtotal		\$3,723,553
Contingency @	7.0%	\$260,647
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST		\$3,984,200
Design Fees @	15%	\$597,630
NO ESCALATION		
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST		\$4,581,830